



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN AND MICHAEL FLAHERTY  
Breadon, Edwards, Baker, O'Malley, Essaibi-George, Bok, Campbell, Mejia, Wu and  
Janey  
**CITY OF BOSTON**  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS HOUSE PARTIES AND  
GATHERINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS:** As we continue to be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are concerning reports of large house parties and gatherings with no masks or physical distancing measures in place throughout our neighborhoods;

**WHEREAS:** These house parties are concerning not only because their potential to become superspreader events in the age of COVID-19, but also due to their noise and impact on the quality of life for our residents, as these parties often leaving behind trash and litter on the street and attracting rodents and pests; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 46 stated that there should never be more than 25 persons in a single enclosed, indoor space, and failure to comply may result in a civil fine of up to \$300 per violation. In the state of New York, individuals who violated the state's order on social gatherings can be fined up to \$2,000 for first offense, and up to a \$5,000 fine for a second violation; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Residents are to report large house parties to the Boston Police Department at 911, Inspectional Services Department has also engaged with landlords to remind them of housing policies, disturbances, COVID policies, rules and responsibilities; *and*

**WHEREAS:** As we continue to hear these reports of house parties, we need to talk about stricter enforcement of the Governor's order and further mechanisms to disincentivize people from having large parties, including increasing the fines on repeat offenders; *and*

**WHEREAS:** As we continue to observe physical distancing and avoid large gatherings in our effort to prevent a spike in COVID infection rates, as well as ensuring the quality of life for residents, we need to talk about how we can improve existing policies and enforcement around house parties; *and*

**WHEREAS:** It is also critical that we take personal responsibility for our actions and to protect the public health of all, especially our seniors, and persons with disabilities; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss ways to better enforce rules regarding house parties and indoor gatherings. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, Inspectional Services Department, Boston Public Health Commission, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.